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| 10/086,604 | 03/01/2002 | Steve Bakke | 021241.000006 | 1958 |

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| EXAMINER |
|---|
| SHIFERAW, ELENI A |

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2136 | |

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *8/19/05*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.      2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-26* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☐ All  b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☐ Other: _____ .

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1.     Applicant's arguments/amendments with respect to amended claims 21-25, and presently pending claims 1-26, filed on August 19, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The examiner would like to point out that this action is made final (MPEP 706.07a).

2.     The examiner accepts the amended claims 21-25 for rejections made under 35 U.S.C 101 non-statutory subject matter.

### *Response to Arguments*

3.     Applicant argues that:

a.     Independent claims 1, 8, 20, and 26 are not taught by neither reference to include *"receiving a connection signal from a soft switch at the provider location, wherein a data portion of the connection signal includes a private connection address associated with the provider endpoint," "modifying the data portion of the connection signal by substituting a public connection address for the private connection address," or "sending the modified connection signal to the user endpoint"* (page 8 lines 17-25, page 9 lines 11-28, page 10 lines 22-34, page 12 par. 1 & 4, and page 14 par. 1).

The references, whether alone or in combination, fail to support limitations of independent claim 14 wherein *"substitute a public connection address for a private connection address embedded within a data portion of the connection signal"* or *"a voice communication port electronically connected to the processor, wherein the voice communication port is associated with the private*

*connection address on a private side of the voice firewall," "voice firewall processor is*

*configured to substitute a public connection address for a private connection address embedded*

*within a data portion of the connection signal,"* (page 15 lines 19-29, page 16 par. 2, and page

17).

c.      Dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-19, and 21-25 are allowable based upon their dependency

on allowable claims 1, 8, 14, 20, and 26.

However, Examiner disagrees with applicant.

Regarding argument (a), Argument is not persuasive. Gbadegesin discloses a proxy server

communicating a user of one network to a user of another network by **editing a data packet**

**private address**. The method includes receiving a message packet having application-layer data

including **private address** information of the client **from API (soft switch) at the proxy**, and

**editing** the application-layer data comprises the step of **replacing the private address**

**information with public address information (i.e. data portion of the connection signal is**

**replaced/changed/edited)** of the gateway (page 8 claim 9 and page 1 par. 0008 lines 10-12) and

sending the modified connection signal to the user of the second network (page 6 par. 0055 lines

6-12).

Regarding argument (b), Argument is not persuasive. Gbadegesin teaches

substituting/editing/changing a public connection address for a private connection address of a

data packet (page 8 claim 9). Schuster discloses a voice communication port electronically

connected to the processor, wherein the voice communication port is associated with the private

connection address on a private side of the voice firewall (col. 5 lines 15-54, and fig. 1).

Sufficient motivation to combine Schuster within the system of Gbadegesin is provided, on page

4 of first Office Action.

Regarding argument (c), examiner disagrees with applicant. Based on the arguments set forth by

the examiner for arguments (a) and (b), the dependent claims stand rejected.

The examiner is not trying to teach the invention but is merely trying to interpret the claim

language in its broadest and reasonable meaning. Therefore, the examiner asserts that the system

of the prior art, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach or suggest the subject matter as recited in

independent claims 1, 8, 14, 20, and 26. Dependent claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-19, and 21-25 are also

rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims and by other reason set

forth in this office action dated September 18, 2005. Accordingly, rejections for claims 1-26 are

respectfully maintained.

## Rejections

4.      The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found

in a prior Office action.        .

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

5.      Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gbadegesin

(Pub. No.: US 2004/0210674 A1) in view of Schuster et al. (Schuster, US 6,822,957 B1).

As per claims 1, 8, 20, and 26, Gbadegesin teaches a method/computer program product of

providing communication between a provider endpoint at a provider location and a user endpoint

at a user location, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a connection signal from a soft switch at the provider location, wherein a data

portion of the connection signal includes a private connection address associated with the

provider endpoint (page 1 par. 0004 lines 1-7, and par. 0008 lines 10-12);

storing the private connection address (page 4 par. 0042 lines 1-2);

modifying the connection signal by substituting a public connection address for the private

connection address (page 8 claim 8, and page 4 par. 0038 lines 1-5);

opening a communication port to provide communications between the user endpoint and the

provider endpoint (page 4 par. 0040 lines 4-10, and page 6 par. 0055 lines 6-12); and

sending the modified connection signal to the user endpoint (page 6 par. 0055 lines 6-12).

Gbadegesin does not explicitly teach the communication is a voice communication. However

Schuster teaches opening a voice communication port to provide

communications between the user endpoint and the provider endpoint (col. 6 lines 46-50, and

col. 8 lines 43-67). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Schuster within the system of

Gbadegesin because they are analogous in modifying a private address of a LAN device in order

to create a session to external network devices (col. 6 lines 18-23). One would have been

motivated to incorporate the teachings of Schuster within Gbadegesin because it would transmit

ordinary telephone calls over the internet using packetlinked routers, would allow a local

network to efficiently switch between external/internet network service providers, and provide

cost savings on the local network (col. 24 lines 4-27).

As per claim 14, Gbadegesin teaches a voice firewall comprising:

a command input port (page 5 par. 0044-0045);

a command output port (page 5 par. 0044-0045);

a processor electrically connected to the command input port and the command output port,

wherein the processor is configured to receive a connection signal through the command input

port (page 1 par. 0008 lines 10-12), wherein the processor is further configured to substitute a

public connection address for a private connection address embedded within a data portion of the

connection signal (page 8 claim 8, and page 4 par. 0038 lines 1-5); and

Gbadegesin fails to explicitly teach a voice communication.

However Schuster teaches a voice communication port electrically connected to the

processor, wherein the voice communication port is associated with the private connection

address on a private side of the voice firewall and is associated with the public connection

address on a public side of the voice firewall (col. 5 lines 15-54, and fig. 1). Therefore it would

have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to

employ the teachings of Schuster within the system of Gbadegesin because they are analogous in

modifying a private address of a LAN device in order to create a session to external network

devices (col. 6 lines 18-23). One would have been motivated to incorporate the teachings of

Schuster within Gbadegesin because it would transmit ordinary telephone calls over the internet

using packetlinked routers, would allow a local network to efficiently switch between

external/internet network service providers, and provide cost savings on the local network (col.

24 lines 4-27).

As per claims 2 and 22, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above.

In addition Schuster teaches the method/computer program product further comprising the step

of opening a voice communication port, wherein the voice communication port provides a voice

line between the user endpoint and the provider endpoint (col. 6 lines 46-50, and col. 8 lines 43-

67). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claims 3 and 9, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above.

In addition Schuster teaches the method/voice firewall further comprising the step of opening a

voice communication port, wherein the voice communication port is configured to receive

signals from the user endpoint at the public connection address and is configured to receive

signals from the provider endpoint at the private connection address (col. 6 lines 46-50, and col.

8 lines 43-67). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claims 4, 10, and 23, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described

above. In addition Schuster teaches the method/computer program product, wherein the user

endpoint is an IP telephone (fig. 1 No. 22). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1

above.

As per claims 5 and 11, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Schuster teaches the method, wherein the IP telephone is behind a conventional firewall (fig. 1 No. 22, and 39). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claims 6, 12, and 24, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Schuster teaches the method/computer program product, wherein the provider endpoint is a gateway connected to a public switched telephone network (col. 5 lines 40-44, and fig. 1 No. 22, 39, and 32). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claims 7, 13, and 25, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Schuster teaches the method/computer program product, wherein the provider endpoint is an IP telephone (fig. 1 No. 39). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claim 15, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Schuster teaches the voice firewall, wherein the voice communication port is opened by the processor after receipt of the connection signal (col. 6 lines 46-50, and col. 8 lines 43-67). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claim 16, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Schuster teaches the voice firewall, wherein the command input port and the command

output port provide a conduit through the voice firewall for a command session between a soft switch at a provider location and a user endpoint at a user location (col. 6 lines 46-50, and col. 8 lines 43-67). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claim 17, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Schuster teaches the voice firewall, wherein:

the command input port and the command output port provide a conduit through the voice firewall for a command session between a soft switch at a provider location and a user endpoint at a user location (col. 6 lines 46-50, and col. 8 lines 43-67); and

the processor authenticates signals from user endpoint prior to initiation of the command session (fig. 4 No. 80, and col. 12 lines 49-col. 13 lines 26). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claim 18, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Schuster teaches the voice firewall, wherein the processor provides firewall security for devices at a provider location by hiding the private addresses of the devices (page 8 claim 8, and page 4 par. 0038 lines 1-5). The rational for combining are the same as claim 1 above.

As per claim 19, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Schuster teaches the voice firewall, wherein:

the processor is electrically connected to a provider location on the private side of the voice

firewall and is electrically connected to a user location on the public side of the voice firewall

(col. 5 lines 15-54, and fig. 1); and

the processor facilitates communication between a user endpoint at the user location and a

provider endpoint at the provider location (col. 8 lines 43-67). The rational for combining are the

same as claim 1 above.

As per claim 21, Gbadegesin and Schuster teach all the subject matter as described above. In

addition Gbadegesin teaches the computer program product further comprising instructions for

storing the private connection address (page 4 par. 0042 lines 1-2).

*Conclusion*

6.      **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time
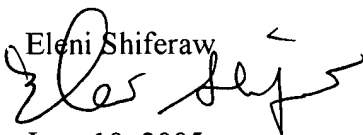
policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,
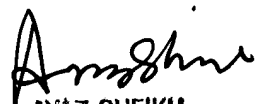
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

7.      Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Eleni A. Shiferaw whose telephone number is 571-272-3867. The

examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization

where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eleni Shiferaw

June 10, 2005

AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100